

## The Utah State Parks

# Explorer

Summer 2008



Sunrise at Wasatch Mountain State Park's Mountain Course

## Utah State Parks Golf

In three of Utah's state parks, an afternoon hike might mean a stroll along fairways and greens sporting your golf bag instead of a backpack. Utah State Parks offers six challenging golf courses at three very different parks in various regions of the state.

From the meandering water hazards at Green River and breathtaking canyon shots at Palisade, to tree lined fairways of Wasatch Mountain. Utah State Parks offers consistent, great play at an affordable price. Combine golf with extraordinary scenery and camping for a great weekend getaway.

Tee times can be made online, by telephone, or in person at the pro shops. Online tee times may be booked up to eight days in advance, starting at 9 p.m. Telephone or in-person tee times can be made up to seven days in advance starting at approximately 6 a.m.

See GOLF on page 3



Driving range at Palisade State Park

## Annual Parks Passes Now Available

This great winter season should mean good water levels in Utah's lakes and reservoirs this summer. Now is the time to purchase your Utah State Parks Annual Pass or Senior Adventure Pass.

The \$75 Annual Pass waives day-use fees at most state parks and provides a new \$2 camping discount seven days a week, excluding holidays and holiday weekends. Passes do not discount special use fees, such as golf.

Utah seniors, 62 and over, may purchase a Senior Adventure Pass for \$35, which provides the same benefits as the Annual Pass.

Mention this newsletter and receive \$5 off either pass when you purchase online at [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov) or at the Salt Lake Administrative Office at 1594 West North Temple. For more information, please call (801) 538-7220 or 877-UTPARKS. This offer ends 9/01/2008. Discount code: USPNEW

# ROCKIN' Utah



Utah State Parks is launching an initiative to get children and their families outside to play, discover and explore the great outdoors. This program includes fishing events, hikes, campouts, heritage and history activities, and more. Events are as follows:

**June 7 — Go Fish!** Cast a line and catch a fish on Free Fishing Day.

**June 14 — I Spy!** Watch wildlife, from raptors to reptiles.

**June 27 — Happy Campers!** Great Outdoors Campout: Camp and cook, roast and toast

**June 28 — Helmet Head!** Helmets look cool and protect your head — Learn ATV safety.

**July 12 — Wear It!** Life jackets float, you don't! Learn boating and water safety.

**July 19 — Fly a Kite!** Learn to fly a kite at Flight Park State Recreation Area.

**July 19 — Helmet Head!** Helmets look cool and protect your head — Learn ATV safety.

**August 9 — History Hunt!** Discover dinosaurs, pull a pioneer handcart or climb into a kiva.

**August 16 — Take a Hike!** Give your television the boot and take a walk on the wild side

**September 6 — Helmet Head!** Helmets look cool and protect your head — Learn ATV safety

For more information, call (801) 538-7220 or email [rockin@utah.gov](mailto:rockin@utah.gov)



# State Parks Encourages Off-Highway Vehicle Safety

Utah State Park off-highway vehicle (OHV) managers remind everyone to ride safely and responsibly over the summer holidays. Riders should be properly trained and prepared, and ride in a responsible manner.

Utah State Parks urges parents to enroll children in a Know Before You Go! training course, which is required by Utah law. By passing this course, drivers eight through 16 may legally operate an OHV. Drivers 16 years and older must have a valid driver's license or OHV education certificate. Remember, children under age eight cannot operate an OHV on public land.

In addition to preparation and training, Utah State Parks OHV Education Specialist Ann Evans offers the following guidelines for safe OHV riding:



OHV course at Jordan River OHV State Recreation Area

- Always wear a safety-rated and properly fitted helmet, goggles, clothing covering arms and legs, and over-the-ankle boots.
- Check mechanical controls and safety devices on your machine before you ride to ensure proper operation.
- Ride your OHV only in areas

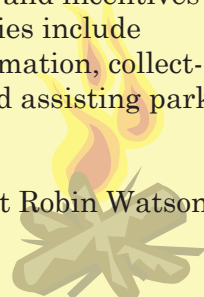
See OHV TIPS on page 4

## Wanted: Camp Hosts

Utah State Parks needs camp hosts to assist with the upcoming summer season. A typical season runs from mid-May through mid-September, however, several parks need year-round hosts.

Camp hosts receive a free campsite with hookups (if available), discounts at park gift shops, volunteer uniform and incentives such as park passes and clothing. Responsibilities include greeting visitors, providing park and area information, collecting litter, cleaning campsites and restrooms and assisting park managers with various tasks.

For more information or to apply, please contact Robin Watson at (801) 537-3445 or [robinwatson@utah.gov](mailto:robinwatson@utah.gov).





# Stay Afloat — Wear a Lifejacket



## *Park Managers Stress the Importance of Boat Safety*

Utah State Parks managers urge boaters and swimmers to use precaution while on the water.

“Accidents can happen suddenly and at any time,” stated Utah State Parks Boating Coordinator Dave Harris. “Wearing a life jacket while boating is synonymous with wearing your seat belt on the highway—they are both proven life savers.”

“Nearly 80% of fatalities from boating accidents could be prevented if a life jacket had been worn. And it is likely that nearly 100% of swimming related drownings could be prevented if a life jacket or other floatation device is used,” Harris said.

## Harris' Boating Safety Tips

Always wear a life jacket. Utah law requires children under 13 to wear a properly sized life jacket when on a boat. However, it is a safe and smart practice for everyone, including adults, to always wear their life jacket.

Never swim alone. Always swim with a “buddy.” Keep an eye on each other. Parents should make sure they are watching their children, even when other adults or a lifeguard is present.

Don't drink alcohol if you are planning to swim or go boating. Alcohol slows reaction time and affects balance and judgment.

Be aware that in natural bodies of water, swift current, deep water and/or a sudden drop-off can get you in trouble, even if you are a good swimmer.

For more boating safety information, please call (801) 538-2628 within the Salt Lake calling area or 1-800-743-3792 from outside the Salt Lake calling area or visit [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov).



Willard Bay watercraft



June is Women's Golf Month.

## GOLF

### Continued from page 2

June is Women's Golf Month aimed at increasing the participation of women in golf. There is a growing demand for golf programming that addresses the needs, expectations and time constraints of women interested in learning or becoming more involved in the game. Utah state parks golf courses will offer special clinics, discounts, lessons, and special events to women of all ages and abilities throughout the month.

### Call or go online to reserve tee times.

Wasatch Pro Shop:  
(435) 654-0532 or  
(801) 266-0268

Soldier Hollow Pro Shop:  
(435) 654-7442 or  
(801) 261-4733

Palisade Pro Shop:  
(435) 835-4653

Green River Pro Shop:  
(435) 564-8882

Online:  
[stateparkgolf.utah.gov](http://stateparkgolf.utah.gov)

# Quagga Mussels Threaten Utah's Waters

Utah is working to protect its borders from an invasive, alien species. If this species sneaks into the state, it will change the way many Utahns live their lives.

This invader is called a quagga mussel. Quagga mussels and their close relative, the zebra mussel, are freshwater, bivalve mollusks that are similar to a clam.

Quagga mussels aren't native to North America, but they've found their way to the continent and have invaded many of the waters east of the 100th meridian (an imaginary line that divides the eastern part of the United States from the western part).

Recently, quagga mussels were found in the Lower Colorado River drainage, including lakes Mead, Mojave and Havasu in Nevada. Quagga mussels usually have a

dark and white (zebra-like) pattern on their shells. When they're fully grown, they're only about 3/4 of an inch across.

## **Tiny... and destructive**

Quagga mussels cluster in tremendous numbers. Clusters of more than 700,000 quagga mussels per square meter have been found in the Great Lakes.

Quagga mussels often attach themselves to hard surfaces, such as rocks, pipes, cement, anchors, cables, other quagga mussels and even the bottoms of boats. In fact, hitchhiking on the hulls of fishing and ski boats is one of their favorite ways to move from one lake to another.

If allowed to infest and multiply in the water storage reservoirs that are so common in Utah, the effects will be disastrous. It can cost millions of dollars to remove large concentrations of mussels from pipes and restore proper water flows.

## **How to help**

Help keep quagga mussels out of Utah by following these tips:

- Drain the water from the boat's motor, live well, ballast tanks and bilge on land before leaving the immediate area of the lake.
- Flush motor and bilges with hot



This quagga mussel is still alive after two days out of water.

water at least 104 degrees Fahrenheit, which kills the mussels.

- After boating, completely inspect vessel and trailer. Remove any visible mussels. In addition, feel for any rough or gritty spots on the boat's hull- these may be young mussels that are hard to see.
- Scrape off and crush visible mussels. Wash boat's hull, equipment, bilge and any other exposed surface with water.
- Clean and wash the trailer, and any other equipment that has come in contact with lake water. Mussels can live in small pockets in any location where water collects.
- Air-dry boat and other equipment for at least five days before launching in another water.



Quagga mussels from Lake Mead destroy a propeller.

## **OHV TIPS** Continued From page 2

designated for their use. The best way to protect your riding privilege is to stay on the trail.

- Do not carry passengers on single-person

machines. However, never ride alone and always let someone know your itinerary.

- Do not take alcohol or drugs along for the ride.
- Carry tools and survival gear in the event of changing weather conditions and mechanical failure.

- Respect closed areas and private property. Don't cut switchbacks or take shortcuts. Remember, areas signed as wilderness are closed to all motorized vehicles.

- OHVs should not be used as "babysitters" by parents at any time, especially in campgrounds

or neighborhood roads.

To register for Know Before You Go! classes or for information on OHV laws and riding areas, contact the OHV Information Center at (801) 538-7433 from within Salt Lake City, or 1-800-OHV-RIDE (648-7433) from outside the area.